

Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

Division of Disease Prevention (DDP)

Monthly Ebulletin



<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/disease-prevention>

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May 2017 Edition

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Preparing for Syringe Services Program

With the signing into law of Virginia's Comprehensive Harm Reduction Program, as of July 1, 2017, certain jurisdictions will be able to provide syringes services programs (SSP). These services will include the distribution of new hypodermic needles and syringes and disposal of used needles and syringes to persons who inject drugs to help prevent Hepatitis C and HIV in the Commonwealth. While the program's criteria, standards and protocols are waiting approval, agencies interested in providing these services, including local health departments (LHDs) and community-based organizations (CBOs), may want to take steps in preparation for service provision. DDP suggests that interested entities:

1. Become familiar with the [two laws that govern syringe services in Virginia](#). The two laws are:
Virginia Code § 32.1-45.4 Comprehensive harm reduction programs to include syringe services; and
Virginia Code § 54.1-3467. Distribution of hypodermic needles or syringes, gelatin capsules, quinine or any of its salts
2. Join a community opioid taskforce. If no taskforce exists in your jurisdiction, help form one.
3. Talk with your LHD director, local law enforcement and government officials to determine if they support the idea of comprehensive harm reduction programs in your community.
4. Talk with substance abuse and mental health services providers about processes for referral, availability of treatment appointments, and their caseloads. Determine if they are a supportive partner and if they would be willing to accept referrals.
5. Provide community education programs on syringe services. Talk to persons in your community who currently or have recently injected to get their input on what would make a program work in your area.
6. Explore funding opportunities. Neither federal nor state funding can be used to purchase syringes, needles, or other items used to prepare or inject illegal

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VDH Messages

To ensure you receive e-mail messages, such as the DDP E-Bulletin or announcements about funding opportunities, please check that important DDP contacts (such as your contract monitor) are in your address book so that their e-mails are not sent to your spam or junk folders. Check those folders regularly to see if you have missed messages.

ADAP Enrollment Numbers as of 4/25/17

- Total Clients Enrolled:

substances.

After the SSP standards and protocols have been approved, agencies serving localities that are deemed to be at increased risk for an HIV or Hepatitis outbreak will be required to submit an application for authorization to operate a SSP to the Virginia Department of Health. Approved entities will be provided with a memorandum of agreement. In addition, DDP will release a Request for Proposal for comprehensive harm reduction programs to support personnel and other allowable costs.

Agencies can help determine the impact that the opioid crisis has on their jurisdictions by examining the data found in VDH's new [Opioid Addiction Indicators Dashboard](#).

Any additional questions regarding syringe services programs or comprehensive harm reduction can be addressed to [Bruce Taylor](#), Community HIV Planner.

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Hepatitis Awareness Month

May is Hepatitis Awareness Month and the Sixth Annual National Hepatitis Testing Day is May 19! Here are some resources that may help your efforts during May and beyond.



- Hepatitis Awareness Month and Testing Day [Resource Center](#) has free tools to help support awareness activities and testing events. Resources include [buttons, badges, or a quiz widget](#) for websites; [Live-Read Radio Scripts templates](#) to pitch events to local radio stations; and sample [proclamations](#) for Hepatitis Awareness Month and/or National Hepatitis Testing Day.
- Join the [Be #HepAware Thunderclap](#) on May 19 at 12:00 p.m. EDT / 9:00 a.m. PDT! Supporters can sign up in advance using Twitter, Facebook, or Tumblr accounts for a one-time post that will automatically be sent on May 19.
- For organizations that provide ongoing hepatitis testing and vaccination services, visit <https://gettested.cdc.gov/> and fill out an [online form](#) to make sure your services are registered within the database. This site is a tool for people to find ongoing services in their area by entering their zip code.
- Share the feature on the [ABCs of Viral Hepatitis](#) and encourage people to take the [Hepatitis Risk Assessment](#) to get personalized hepatitis vaccination and testing recommendations. The Risk Assessment can be shared by posting [badges](#) on your website or promoting the link on social media.
- Visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Division of Viral Hepatitis's [website](#) for information and resources on all types of hepatitis, including fact sheets, posters, and provider resources.

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6,282

- Direct ADAP Clients: 1,557
- Medicare Part D Assistance Program (MPAP) Clients: 584
- Insurance Continuation Assistance Program (ICAP) Clients: 554
- Health Insurance Marketplace Assistance Program (HIMAP) Enrollment Clients: 3,587

2017 HIMAP Enrollment Numbers

- Re-enrolled for 2017 (have all information): 3,019
- New Enrollments for 2017: 593
- Enrolled in ACA in 2016 (no 2017 information): 140

Hepatitis C/HIV Treatment Assistance Program Numbers

- Total Clients that have Accessed Program: 83
- Clients that have Completed Therapy: 71
- Clients Currently on Treatment: 7

ADAP Listserv

To request to be added to the ADAP Listserv to receive updates, please contact [Carrie Rhodes](#) at (804) 864-7914.

HIV Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) Assistance Program Numbers as of 4/25/17

- Clients Currently on VDH PrEP Drug Assistance Program: 139
- [PrEP Services Locator](#)

The Community Advancement Project (CAP)

AIDS Drug Assistance Program Webpage Updated

Please note that AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) application materials have been updated on the ADAP [webpage](#). Updated application and recertification materials are available through the revised page.

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New Resources Available on the DDP PrEP Page

DDP has been updating the HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and non-occupational post-exposure prophylaxis (nPEP) page on the VDH website. This [page](#) contains information for the general public, clinicians and PrEP program administrators. The site features a PrEP services locator, which links potential patients to providers in their area, as well as links to general resources on PrEP and nPEP. A [Provider Tool Kit](#) that includes downloadable copies of all PrEP and nPEP-related forms, clinical practice guidelines, budget forms, and templates has just been added. There are also multiple links to best practices, CDC guidelines, the National Clinician PEP and PrEP Warm Line, and more. DDP's goal is to provide comprehensive and user-friendly online resources to improve understanding of and access to PrEP and nPEP. For questions on DDP's PrEP initiative, please contact [Eric Mayes](#), PrEP Coordinator.

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Data to Care Webpage Launched

The [webpage](#) for the Data to Care (D2C) Initiative is live! This new page gives an overview of the initiative, how D2C is implemented across Virginia, and outcomes of the program, resources, and contact information. Important D2C documents are also posted on this page under "Resources" for easy access. For additional information or questions about the D2C Initiative, please contact [Amanda Saia](#).

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New Extragenital Testing Resource Webpage

The [National Coalition of STD Directors](#) (NCSD), the [National Network of STD Clinical Prevention Training Centers](#), and the [Association of Public Health Laboratories](#) have produced resources for clinics and laboratories to ensure that extragenital testing is available across the country. The [webpage](#) currently includes resources for medical providers and laboratories. Additional content will be added to support implementation of extragenital testing.

If you have resources you would like to add, or suggestions for future work related to extragenital testing, please contact NCSD's Health Equity and Capacity Building Manager, [Stephen Hicks](#), or DDP's Policy, Planning and Communications Manager, [Ashley Carter](#).

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The Community Advancement Project (CAP) meets regionally as an advisory board to assess needs of gay and bisexual men and transgender women of color. CAP has worked to identify health needs including mental health, awareness of PrEP, substance abuse, domestic violence, perceptions of LGBT persons of color in the media, health testing, stigma, access to treatment, and more. If you would like to participate or receive more information, please contact [Joshua Thomas](#).

Stay Connected!

Check out upcoming events on the DDP [HIV Prevention webpage](#). You can request to have your own events added to the calendar and our Facebook page through the Event Submission Form, located on the events page under the events calendar.

For those using a compatible web browser, you may also download the [Event Submission Form](#) directly and submit it following the directions at the bottom of the sheet. "Like" our DDP [Facebook page](#) and share it with your friends to stay connected socially and hear about events throughout the state.

340B Recertification

The 340B recertification period for CDC grantees is Wednesday, April 26 through Wednesday, May 24, 2017. The Health Resources and Services Administration Office of Pharmacy Affairs is required to recertify all participating covered entities enrolled in the 340B Program annually to ensure all covered entities are appropriately listed on the 340B database, and that all covered entities remain compliant with the 340B Program requirements.

Visit the [340B Program database](#) and verify that your covered entity's information is correct. Direct your questions on the 340B Prime Vendor Program to Apexus at (888) 340-2787, or send an e-mail to ApexusAnswers@340bpvp.com. Recertification for TB and STI clinics will be managed centrally by the Office of Epidemiology. LHDs or CBOs participating in 340B as a STI- or TB-covered entity should direct questions to [Ashley Carter](#) (STI Authorizing Official) or [Lisa McCoy](#) (TB Authorizing Official).

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Integrated HIV Care and Prevention Services Planning

The Community HIV Planning Group (CHPG) met on April 6, 2017 to discuss and provide input on disparities in health care, as well as HIV prevention services for transgender individuals in the state. The planning group listened to presentations on epidemiological data pertaining to HIV in the transgender community, the delivery of health care in a transgender clinic, and the effects of stigma and violence on that community. Information presented was discussed by the CHPG members in relation to improving the outcomes in the 2017 Integrated Care and Prevention Plan.

For additional information regarding these presentations, please contact [Renate Nnoko](#), HIV Care Services Planner, at (804) 864-7950.

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PERSONNEL

Welcome



SODA welcomes **Bradley Cox**, a new data entry operator. He will focus on data entry and converting Bytequest data into the Maven system. Contact Bradley at bradley.cox@vdh.virginia.gov.

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